

Mayor
Keno Hawker

Vice Mayor
District 3
Dennis Kavanaugh

Councilmember
District 1
Claudia Walters

Councilmember
District 2
Mike Whalen

Councilmember
District 4
Kyle Jones

Councilmember
District 5
Rex Griswold

Councilmember
District 6
Janie Thom

City Manager
Mike Hutchinson



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City budget process underway

Each year, the Mesa City Council adopts a budget that is based upon a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The budget determines the way your tax dollars are spent.

To ensure appropriate expenditures, the City undergoes a thorough process that examines priorities outlined by Council and individual City departments. Then, a schedule of public meetings called budget hearings is set to discuss these needs and priorities. This year's hearings will be held May 1, 2 and 5 in the lower level Council Chambers, 57 E. First St. Budget hearings are broadcast live on Mesa Channel 11.

City Council is expected to adopt a tentative budget on June 2, with final adoption anticipated on June 30.

For more on the budget process, including detailed information about the City's funding sources, current financial situation, proposed reductions, and meeting times, logon to Mesa's Web site at www.cityofmesa.org.

Tentative Budget Schedule

- April 17 -** Preliminary CIP Book submitted to City Council and Departments Forecast presented to City Council.
- May 1, 2, 5 -** City Council budget hearings.
- June 2 -** City Council adopts the Tentative Budget.
- June 30 -** City Council adopts the Final Budget and CIP public hearing on proposed Utility rate changes.
- Aug. 1 -** Utility rate changes, if applicable, become effective.

Beck chosen as new Mesa fire chief

The Mesa City Council unanimously confirmed City Manager Mike Hutchinson's recommended appointment of Harry M. Beck to the position of Fire Chief. Beck was chosen after a nationwide search that yielded 27 candidates. A committee composed of community and City leaders screened the applications and interviewed seven candidates before choosing Beck.

Chief Beck began his career in fire service in 1973 with the Phoenix Fire Department. In

1984, he was appointed deputy fire chief, a position he held until joining the Mesa Fire Department in March.

With more than 440 employees, of which 370 are sworn, the Mesa Fire Department is the largest accredited department in Arizona.

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April is Water Awareness Month

Being aware of how much water you use is an important step in developing wise water use habits. On average, each person in Mesa uses 150 gallons per day for indoor and outdoor use. This means that each person uses approximately 4,500 gallons per month, or a family of four could expect a monthly usage of about 18,000 gallons.

Look at your utility bill each month for your monthly water usage reported in thousands of gallons. If you see unusually high use, you may need to do some detective work to find out why. Leaks, broken pipes, old plumbing fixtures, wasteful consumption habits, improper irrigation scheduling, or appliance or valve failure may cause high water usage.

Indoors, toilets are the most likely places for leaks, yet they are the least noticeable. There is a simple test you can conduct on your

toilet--put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If colored water appears in the bowl after 10 minutes, you should replace the leaky flapper.

Since 50 to 70 percent of household water is used outdoors, making sure your outdoor water is managed well is a great place to start. Providing routine maintenance to your irrigation system is important. Check your system for broken or worn out parts and replace as needed. Ensure that you are scheduling your irrigation properly by using *Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert* from the City's Utilities Conservation Division.

To get your free copy of the guide or if you have questions on how to lower your water use, e-mail conservation_info@cityofmesa.org or call (480) 644-3306.

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In addition to overseeing the department, Chief Beck serves as an active member of the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Arizona Fire Chiefs Statewide Mutual Aid Executive Committee and Phoenix Valley Leadership. Chief Beck also serves as chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments 911 Oversight Committee and is a founding member of both the Arizona Public Safety Communications Committee and the Regional Public Safety



Communications Committee.

Chief Beck holds a master of public administration, a bachelor of science in industrial supervision and an associate degree in fire science.

Mesa Council approves water rights settlement

The Mesa City Council approved a proposed water rights settlement with the Gila River Indian Community.

"Resolution of this dispute marks an important milestone for Mesa," said Mayor Keno Hawker.

The three main issues resolved in the settlement package are final allocation of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, repayment to the federal government for CAP construction and Community claims for water.

The settlement package provides that the federal government will pay for 47 percent of the repayment obligation, while state

CAP water users will pay for 53 percent, or \$1.64 billion.

Terms of the settlement include a reclaimed water exchange. This exchange allows Mesa to trade what is essentially a non-drinking water supply into a drinkable supply. In the future, Mesa also will receive an additional 7,115 acre feet per year of high-priority CAP water through the settlement. The allocation will ensure Mesa will continue to have an adequate water supply even in times of drought.

Mesa is the first city to approve the historic agreement. Numerous utilities and irrigation districts, as well as other municipalities, also will consider the settlement.

"The approval of the water rights settlement by the Mesa City Council is a significant and historic step," said Gila River Indian Community Governor Richard Narcia. Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl concurred, stating "Cities that agree to participate in the settlement agreement not only benefit themselves, but also help the federal government ensure tribal lands have the natural resources necessary to sustain themselves. The long-awaited agreement is really a win-win situation for all parties involved."

For more information about the agreement, call Kathryn Sorensen, Mesa's water resources coordinator, at (480) 644-2947.

Dobson Ranch unveils new features

The Dobson Ranch Golf Course dedicated its new pro shop and unveiled its TeePod electronic scoring system at a special ceremony March 4.

Mesa's 18-hole municipal course is only the second in the United States with this new technology. The TeePod system provides an easy way to keep score, track your rounds, contact the pro shop, and order food and beverages. Computer touch screens have been installed at each of the 18 holes, and a scorecard is printed at the pro shop upon completion of your round. Access to the TeePod system is included with regular green fees, at no additional cost.



The new, 4,000-square-foot pro shop features a new patio and seating area, a 16,000-square-foot putting green, more area for merchandising, a circular driveway and bag drop, and new entrance signage. The costs for both projects were paid solely through golf course revenues.



Deena Barbara wins East Valley Crystal Award

Fire Department Community Safety Specialist Deena Barbara was presented with a Crystal Award at the Arizona School of Health Sciences' first annual East Valley Crystal Awards presentation in February.

By facilitating a program to provide smoke alarms to Mesa residents, Deena has demonstrated a commitment to safety and innovative outreach efforts.



Neighborhood Notebook

It's telephone book recycling time

Spring is in the air, which means...your new telephone books will be arriving shortly at your doorstep.

Through May 15, QwestDex will be distributing its Spring 2003 telephone directories to Mesa residents. The City of Mesa Solid Waste Division offers you an easy solution to recycle your old phone books by asking you to simply toss them into your blue barrel along with all your other recyclables. That's all there is to it. If you have any questions regarding any of the City's Recycling Programs, call the Recycling Hotline at (480) 644-2222 or visit the City's Web site at www.cityofmesa.org.

New "Be Alert" program aids in child safety

The Mesa Police Department Crime Prevention Unit has developed a child safety education program called "Be Alert." The program will provide safety and prevention information to children and parents in the City of Mesa.

The "Be Alert" program covers a variety of topics including child abduction and helmet safety, 911 education, honesty and making good decisions, team building and self-esteem. The program is effective because the information is presented to the children at

their level, the messages are short and to the point, and are repeated numerous times throughout the presentation. Magic, puppets and props are used in a simple yet effective method of teaching the importance of safety and well-being. The lessons are designed to heighten awareness, teach strategies to avoid harm and reinforce what has been learned in a fun, interactive and creative way.

Service helps rid streets of abandoned carts

You've seen them just about everywhere.

They're in the streets, in parking lots, in alleys, in parks, in front yards and in canals. They're abandoned shopping carts.

Now, the City has a way to help residents keep their streets and neighborhoods free of them. It's the Arizona Cart Retrieval Line. The new service, operated in conjunction with Valley grocers and retailers, gives residents an easy way to have the carts removed and returned to the stores at no charge.

The service, which began earlier this year, retrieves about 14,000 shopping carts from throughout the Valley each week.

Call 1-800-THE-CART (843-2278) to have abandoned carts removed from your neighborhood.

Mesa hosts fiesta

May 2 and 3 will once again bring the sounds and flavor of Mexico to Mesa. It's the 17th annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St. And it's free!

Come join us for the best in traditional and contemporary arts, music and dance, and some of the best food north of the border. The fiesta begins with music and dancing Friday from 6-10 p.m. The party resumes at 10 a.m., capped by some of the best regional and national recording artists on Saturday night. There will be fun for the entire family, with traditional music groups, contemporary Latin dance music, ballet folklórico, children's activities, arts and crafts vendors, carnival

rides and games and the annual contest to find Mesa's best salsa. Watch for details of the salsa contest at your neighborhood Fry's store.

The 17th annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is presented by the City of Mesa, in association with Budweiser, Prensa Hispana, Wells Fargo Bank, KVVA Radio Romántica, KLNZ Tri-Color, The Arizona Republic, the Sister Cities Association of Mesa, Xicanindio Artes, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation.

For more information, call (480) 644-EVENT.

Events and Exhibits

All area codes 480 unless otherwise indicated. For a full event listing, visit www.cityofmesa.org.

May 1, Concerts in the Park, Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dobson Ranch Branch Library, 2425 S. Dobson. Free. 644-5116.

May 1-May 10, Mesa Youtheatre, "The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks," Mesa Arts Center Theatre, 155 N. Center St. Evenings: Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Matinees: Saturday, 4:30 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m. Single ticket prices: Adults \$9, children and students \$7. 644-2902.

May 1, Therman Statom Glass Installation, noon-8 p.m. Mesa Contemporary Arts. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, noon-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Free. 644-2056.

May 2-3, Mesa Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, 6-10 p.m., Fri.; 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat.; Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St. Free. 644-EVENT.

May 7, Wednesday Walks with Museum Curators: West by Southwest, 1 p.m., Mesa Southwest Museum, 53 N. Macdonald St. Join our Curator of History, Keith Foster, as he leads us through our new traveling exhibit, *West by Southwest*, featuring rare

paintings from the Taos Society of Artists and historic and contemporary Santa Fe artists. Event is included in museum admission, unless otherwise indicated. 644-5083.

May 10, Second Saturdays for Family Fun: Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, noon-3 p.m. 53 N. Macdonald St. Celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month at the Mesa Southwest Museum with activities and programs. Event is included with museum admission. 644-2169.

May 10, Mesa Symphony Orchestra's Mother's Day Musical, 7:30 p.m., Mesa Amphitheatre. A free pops concert sponsored by the City of Mesa. Visit www.mesasymphony.org for additional information or call 827-2143.

May 15, Third Thursdays for Stories and Songs: Asian Stories, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mesa Southwest Museum, 53 N. Macdonald St. For Preschoolers and their parents or caregivers. Join us on the third Thursday of each month for stories, songs and a hands-on crafts. Event is included with museum admission unless otherwise indicated. 644-5083.

Dispose of your hazardous materials

Bring your common household hazardous waste materials to one of our HHW collection events.

Acceptable items include paint, motor oil, batteries, pesticides, computer equipment, appliances (limit 2) and car tires (limit 5, no rims).

Residents need to bring their most recent trash bill.

The next event is:

8 a.m.-noon, May 17 at the East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur (east of Power Rd., north of University).

For more information, call the Solid Waste Division at 644-2688 or visit www.cityofmesa.org for a complete listing of acceptable materials.

